

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims: Please amend the claims as follows:

We claim:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for the detection ~~or isolation~~ of antigen-specific T lymphocytes following activation of said T lymphocytes with an antigen, comprising ~~contacting a cell population with~~ stimulating said T lymphocytes in the presence of a CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154 thereby preventing the lowering of the level of said CD154 inside or outside the T lymphocytes; and
detecting the ~~expression level~~_[C1] of CD154 using an antibody directed against CD154.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising detecting ~~or isolating~~ CD4⁺ or CD8⁺ T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detected T lymphocyte cells comprise inflammatory, anti-inflammatory, regulatory or suppressive T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A method for the ~~detection or isolation~~ of antigen-specific T lymphocyte cells in a suspension following activation of said T lymphocytes with an antigen, comprising
~~contacting said suspension with~~ stimulating said T lymphocytes in the presence of a CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154, thereby preventing the lowering of the level of said CD154 inside or outside the T lymphocyte; and
determining intracellular or extracellular CD154 levels using an antibody directed against CD154, wherein cells having CD154 are isolated ~~detected or separated~~.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, comprising ~~detecting or isolating~~ CD4⁺ or CD8⁺ T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said CD40/CD154 system inhibitor is an anti-CD40 antibody or an anti-CD154 antibody.

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, comprising detecting said intracellular or extracellular CD154 levels in or on vital cells.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, comprising isolating or separating T lymphocytes lacking a defined cytokine pattern.

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) An antigen-specific T-lymphocyte cell detected or isolated using the method of claim 4.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) A method for the preventive or causal treatment of infectious, allergic, inflammatory, malignant or autoimmune disease comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the antigen-specific T-lymphocyte cell of claim 13.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising detecting the expression level of CD154 with a CD154-specific antibody.

Claim 16. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising detecting T lymphocytes as antigen specific by determining that said T lymphocytes exhibit a higher level of said CD154 following stimulation compared to a control population of T lymphocytes that have not been stimulated.

Claim 17. (New) The method according to claim 4, further comprising isolating said

T lymphocytes which exhibit a higher level of said CD154 following stimulation compared to a control population of T lymphocytes that have not been stimulated.

Claim 18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, an antibody fragment which specifically binds to said CD154, a specifically modified antibody or an antibody associated with a phage or a fragment of said phage-associated antibody.

Claim 19. (New) The method according to claim 4, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, an antibody fragment which specifically binds to said CD154, a specifically modified antibody or an antibody associated with a phage or a fragment of said phage-associated antibody.

Claim 20. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the CD40/CD154 system inhibitor is an antibody which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154 thereby preventing the lowering of the level of said CD154 inside or outside the T lymphocytes.

Claim 21. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the CD40/CD154 system inhibitor is an anti-CD40 antibody or an anti-CD154 antibody.

Claim 22. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the CD40/CD154 system inhibitor is brefeldin A (Bref-A_(c3)) and/or nonsensin.

Claim 23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the T lymphocytes are provided in a cell suspension.

Claim 24. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154 prevents degradation of said CD154 inside or outside said T lymphocyte.

Claim 25. (New) The method according to claim 4, wherein the CD40/CD154

system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154 prevents degradation of said CD154 inside or outside said T lymphocyte.

Claim 26. (New) A method for the detection of antigen-specific T lymphocytes following activation of said T lymphocytes with an antigen, comprising

stimulating said T lymphocytes in the presence of a CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154 thereby preventing the degradation of said CD154 inside or outside the T lymphocytes; and

detecting the expression of CD154 using an antibody directed against CD154.